

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of decoding data representing a sequence of pictures previously divided into blocks and coded, comprising, for each successive picture, at least the steps of:

- decoding said data;
- filtering the decoded data;

said filtering step being applied to at least one pixel component of a selected segment of consecutive pixels located on a single line or column of the current picture and on both sides of a boundary between two blocks, so that the boundary divides the segment into two parts, wherein said filtering step is applied only if the pixels at the ends of said segment have chrominance components that agree with a similarity criterion, wherein said filtering step is applied only if the two pixels at the ends of a part of said segment have luminance components that agree with a similarity criterion.

2. (Original) A decoding method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said filtering step comprises the sub-steps of:

- comparing the respective chrominance components of the two pixels;
- filtering only if the difference between said respective chrominance components is lower than a predetermined threshold.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A decoding method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said filtering step is applied only if, for each part of the segment, the two pixels at the ends of the part of said segment have luminance components that agree with a similarity criterion.

5. (Previously Presented) A decoding method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said filtering step is applied only if the two consecutive pixels of said segment located on each side of the boundary have luminance components that agree with a similarity criterion.

6. (Currently Amended) A device for decoding data corresponding to a sequence of pictures previously divided into blocks and coded, comprising means for decoding the coded data and means for filtering a selected segment of at least three consecutive pixels located on a single line or column of the current picture and on both sides of any boundary between two blocks, with at least one pixel on each side of so that the boundary divides the segment into two parts, wherein the device also comprises switching means for replacing said filtering means by a direct connection if the two pixels at the ends of said segment have chrominance components that do not agree with a similarity criterion; ~~wherein said filtering is applied only if the two pixels at the ends of a part of said segment have luminance components that agree with a similarity criterion.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A method of decoding data representing a sequence of pictures previously divided into blocks and coded, comprising, for each successive picture, at least the steps of:

- decoding said data;

- filtering the decoded data;

said filtering step being applied to at least one pixel component of a selected segment of at least three consecutive pixels located on a single line or column of the current picture and on both sides of a boundary between two blocks, so that the boundary divides the segment into two parts, wherein said filtering step is applied only if the pixels at the ends of said segment have chrominance components that agree with a similarity criterion; ~~wherein said filtering step is applied only if, for each part of the segment, the two pixels at the ends of the part of said segment have luminance components that agree with a similarity criterion.~~

8. (Previously Presented) The decoding method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the filtering step comprises the sub-steps of:

- comparing the respective chrominance components of the two pixels;
- filtering only if the difference between said respective chrominance components is lower than a predetermined threshold.

9. (Previously Presented) The decoding method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said filtering step is applied only if the two consecutive pixels of said segment located on each side of the boundary have luminance components that agree with a similarity criterion

10. (New) The decoding method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said segment is a segment of at least four consecutive pixels, each of the two parts having at least two

pixels, and wherein said filtering step is applied only if, for each of the two parts, the two pixels at the ends of the part have luminance components that agree with a similarity criterion.

11. (New) The device as claimed in claim 6, configured such that said filtering is applied only if the two pixels at the ends of a part of said segment have luminance components that agree with a similarity criterion, said part having at least two pixels.